



Manchester
High School
for Girls

This is
Manchester
We do
things
differently
here...

**Manchester High School for Girls
Prospectus**

Empowering Girls since 1874

Our Values

Manchester High School for Girls nurtures...



Our Vision

Our vision is excellence: to deliver a pioneering, innovative and dynamic learning experience within a compassionate and caring environment for a needs blind, diverse community where the wellbeing and happiness of every individual and the fulfilment of their potential are our priority. As the School of choice for girls in the North-West, our pupils - like those who have attended the School before them - will go on to be global citizens and courageous motivators of change.

A Manchester High School Girl is known by her confidence and compassion. She is bright and passionate with a love of learning and is ambitious for herself and others. She is a kind, caring, well-rounded individual who wants to make a difference.

Our girls are remarkable.



Mrs Helen F Jeys – Head Mistress

At MHSG, we have been helping pupils achieve their potential since 1874 and have educated many women, who have made significant changes to our world. We are proud of our reputation for academic excellence, but recognise that our extra-curricular opportunities and caring ethos are equally important in supporting our pupils as they become outward-looking and forward-thinking young women.

Wellbeing is a priority and we help pupils develop an awareness of their own value as well as their responsibility towards others. We encourage our pupils to develop character; to build resilience, self-confidence and self-esteem so that they can flourish as individuals. We encourage them to aim high and be 'risk-takers', embracing the importance of failure and viewing challenges as stepping-stones to future progress.

We believe these qualities are fundamental for happiness and success both at school and in the world beyond Manchester High.

Our pioneering alumnae epitomise our approach. From the Pankhurst sisters who fiercely campaigned for women's voting rights, through to today's leaders, such as Deputy Political Editor of ITV News, Anushka Asthana, Catherine Mayer, Co-founder of the Women's Equality Party and Dr Kotska Wallace, Principal Engineer at the European Space Agency, our pupils go on to make a real difference.

Manchester High School for Girls does indeed have a long and distinguished history but we strongly believe an even more exciting future lies ahead and we hope your daughter will be part of it.



Manchester's Girls' School

In the 1800s, an academic education for girls was rare. It was thought to be detrimental to their health, social norms and the taxpayer's pocket.

*Thankfully not everyone agreed.
Nine pioneering women and men
set out to change things.*

In 1873, a public appeal was launched to raise £3,000 to found an all-girls' school in Manchester.

In just a few short weeks, over 140 forward-thinking Mancunians had contributed.

Manchester High School for Girls open on 19th January 1874, making us Manchester's oldest girls' school and the first academic girls' school in the North of England.

Since then, we have welcomed all three daughters of Emmeline Pankhurst – Christabel, Sylvia and Adela – as pupils, as well as many other women who have had a huge impact on the world.

*Three of the first four women
to be allowed to graduate from
the University of Manchester
were former pupils of MHSG.*



The Girls' School Difference

Parents seeking the best educational environment for their daughters, and one which will enable them to flourish, should consider the compelling benefits of girls' schools.


Girls' schools provide an environment tailored to female academic and personal development, which can lead to better outcomes not only academically but also in terms of confidence, leadership and skill development.

Research shows that in mixed settings, boys tend to receive more of the teacher's attention, which could disadvantage girls. Learning in a female environment fosters an educational experience where girls thrive.

Beyond general academic achievement, girls in all girls' schools excel in traditionally male-dominated subjects. Data from **WISE Campaign's 2024 A-Level results** shows that girls in all girls' schools are more likely to engage with STEM subjects, encouraged by an environment free of gender stereotypes.

Additionally, girls' schools foster leadership skills and confidence. Without the social dynamics of a mixed school setting, girls are more likely to participate actively and take on a wide range of leadership roles. Studies show that boys tend to dominate classroom discussions in mixed schools, unintentionally sidelining girls' voices. Removing these dynamics gives girls the space to thrive academically and socially, preparing them for competitive career paths.


Ultimately, girls' schools offer a focused, empowering environment where girls are not only more likely to succeed academically, but also develop the confidence and skills needed for future success. Happy and motivated girls who attend girls' schools are more confident and generally possess higher mental toughness than those in other schools. Put simply, our girls believe in themselves and are inspired by the amazing women who have gone before them.



Girls in girls' schools are **2.6 times** as likely to take Further Maths, and more than twice as likely to take Physics at A level – compared to girls in other schools.

The uptake of other sciences is higher - with Biology **40% higher**, Chemistry **85% higher**, and Maths **88% higher** in girls' schools – compared with girls in other schools.

Computer Science has seen the largest growth in uptake for girls, with the percentage of girls taking Computer Science **doubling** in girls' schools.



Source: Girls' Schools Association Research

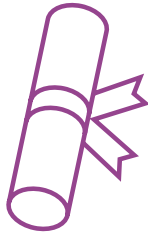
Empowerment

“Leaders have high aspirations and have firmly established core values that underpin the school. This results in a caring, inclusive and diverse community. Staff are ambitious for the pupils and thread the values of learning, innovation, compassion, wellbeing and individuality through every aspect of school life. This results in empowered and dynamic pupils who flourish.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2024



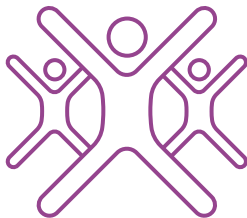
Why choose our School



A **commitment to academic excellence** and learning, and an established reputation for securing some of the best examination results in the country with enviable value-added scores



A **broad curriculum** with a fantastic range of GCSE and A-level subjects ranging from Art and Design to Computer Science and Politics



An exceptional range of **extra-curricular activities** aimed at developing self-confidence, leadership and team-working skills that support a 'character-based education'



Outstanding and compassionate **pastoral care** and wellbeing support that ensures our pupils are happy and feel a real sense of belonging

We focus on character education. We encourage students to aim high and be 'risk-takers', embracing the importance of setbacks and viewing challenges as stepping-stones to future progress. We believe these qualities are fundamental for happiness and success both at school and in the world beyond Manchester High.



Inspirational teachers who embrace an innovative research-based approach to teaching methods, and who are both subject specialists and experts in educating high-achieving and bright pupils



Outstanding facilities – from our state of the art Sixth Form Centre, to our swimming pool, climbing wall, wellbeing spaces, science laboratories and specialist music rooms and art studios



Manchester High is large enough to ensure we offer a wide range of opportunities, but small enough to ensure that **each pupil is known** as an individual



A diverse, vibrant, **multicultural community** where pupils of many faiths, or none, are all welcome



An exciting **'Futures' programme** that equips students for the competitive careers market and higher education, including the most prestigious universities in the world



An exceptional range of **enrichment and leadership** opportunities for students from Preparatory through to Sixth Form

Leading with Kindness

Manchester High School for Girls is a compassionate and close knit community and all our pupils are known to members of staff as individuals. Each pupil has a Form Tutor, or a class teacher in the Preparatory Department, who is there to keep an eye on progress.

These teachers work closely with our Pastoral Deputy, Section Heads and Heads of Year to ensure every pupil maximises their potential and enjoys their time at school. Pupils in need of extra pastoral and wellbeing support can also turn to one of our two nurses or our school counsellor.

Settling in and making friends

We recognise the importance of making friends and our primary focus, when pupils begin their Manchester High journey, is to help girls find their feet as quickly as possible. Our active and connected alumnae community is proof that the friendships formed at Manchester High last a lifetime.

The House System is very important to the sense of community that exists at Manchester High. Pupils are allocated a House on arrival, and quickly bond with their House peers from across the different year groups.

Our 'Big Sister' scheme in the Preparatory Department pairs pupils starting Reception with a friend in Year 6. This means our youngest pupils are supported whilst giving our older girls the chance to put the School's ethos of kindness and compassion into practice.

Year 7 pupils find that their transition to Manchester High is eased by our comprehensive induction programme, which includes a residential trip to the Lake District, as well as another 'Big Sister' scheme, led by the Head Girl Team.

For students joining us in the Sixth Form, our Junior Sixth Induction Programme helps students develop the bonds of friendship, not just for support during the crucial A-level years, but into and throughout adulthood.

Building resilience

Wellbeing is a priority at MHSG and our weekly lessons cover broad topics on physical and mental health, self-esteem and good citizenship. We also have 'theme weeks' across the School that focus on work/life balance, celebrating success and developing the resilience needed to cope with setbacks.

Our 'Big Sister' scheme in the **Preparatory Department** pairs pupils starting Reception with a friend in Year 6.

Our Junior Sixth Induction Programme helps students joining us at **Sixth Form** develop the bonds of friendship, not just for support during the crucial A-level years, but into and throughout adulthood.



Year 7 pupils find that their transition to Manchester High is eased by our comprehensive induction programme, which includes a residential trip to the Lake District, as well as another 'Big Sister' scheme, led by the Head Girl Team.



Pupils live up to the high expectations that adults have of them. Dedicated tutors are adept at identifying issues and concerns. Pupils are confident in talking to teachers about their worries and concerns. Teachers are positive role models and highlighting good behaviour traits is commonplace as a result.

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2024



A World of Opportunity

The aim of our extra-curricular programme is simple; we want girls to have fun, discover lifelong interests and become well-rounded individuals. The programme allows pupils to pursue existing passions and discover new ones, both inside and outside the classroom.

There is no such thing as a 'typical' Manchester High pupil and this is reflected in the wide variety of clubs and societies on offer at lunchtimes and after school. From Model United Nations, Knitting and Zumba to Gardening and Rock Climbing, we cater for all ages and interests.

Having fun and keeping fit and healthy

At Manchester High School for Girls, we are passionate about the value of physical activity. Not only does it sharpen concentration and academic performance, it develops leadership and team working skills and promotes a positive body image.

PE lessons are a vital part of our curriculum but many pupils choose to participate in school sport in their spare time. As well as traditional sports such as hockey, netball, rounders and athletics, there are opportunities to experience activities such as rock climbing, water polo, taekwondo and track cycling.



Staff encourage pupils to be active and promote pupils' physical health through a programme of physical education and extensive sporting extracurricular activities. Leaders place high importance on healthy eating and the pupils benefit from a range of healthy foods available in the day. The promotion of fitness and dance enables pupils to develop physically within a healthy lifestyle.

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2024

Inspiring creativity

Creative pupils can take advantage of our fabulous Art, Music and Drama provision and explore their passions for art as well as all aspects of performance. Participation in the Arts helps to develop confidence, independent decision-making skills, emotional intelligence, an individual voice and the ability to collaborate.

Drama forms an integral part of the curriculum but there are many additional opportunities to showcase talent. We are the only independent school in the area to provide Dance at GCSE in a modern Dance Studio and our purpose-built Music Department offers tuition in more than 20 musical instruments and a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles. The annual school production combines the talents of all three departments and has brought musicals such as *Sweeney Todd*, *Hairspray*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *South Pacific* to Manchester High, providing a wealth of opportunities for pupils to be involved, both on stage and behind the scenes.

Out and about

The Manchester High School for Girls experience goes far beyond the School walls, with pupils regularly heading out to build on their learning in class by experiencing fascinating and eye-opening trips. Whether it is taking part in mock trials at Manchester Crown Court, becoming engrossed by exhibitions at some of the country's most celebrated galleries or delving beneath the land's surface to discover caverns and grottos, there is much to explore.

Our students also have opportunities to take part in life-changing adventures abroad; from Modern Foreign Language trips across Europe, where students immerse themselves in another language, to destinations a little further afield, such as a sports tour to Sri Lanka or a World Challenge expedition to Borneo.



Preparatory Department

4-11 years old

Our Preparatory Department is where pupils thrive in a warm, friendly and lively environment. Encouraged to take part in all that is on offer, girls develop a love of learning and are fully prepared for their secondary education in a safe and supportive atmosphere where pupils and staff get to know each other well.



The stimulating curriculum is taught by dedicated class teachers and we take full advantage of Senior School specialists for subjects such as PE, Music and Modern Foreign Languages.

We make sure it is great fun too – themed days, visiting speakers and excursions, all help to contextualise learning and bring it to life. From stepping back in time at National Trust properties, to celebrating Chinese New Year; from encouraging the next generation of innovative computer coders to inspiring budding artists at the region's finest galleries, pupils are encouraged to become active learners through play and hands-on exploration.

Teaching is also enhanced by a wide range of extra-curricular activities including a variety of sports clubs, ballet and street dance classes, gardening club and Athletics. There are choirs, orchestras and recorder groups, and pupils can access individual Speech and Drama tuition and Music lessons.

Our PHSE and wellbeing programme supports pupils as individuals as they build confidence, self-belief and the skills to succeed. These first steps on their personal development journey are engaging and appropriate to their age, delivered through activities such as the MyHappyMind programme – mindfulness for little ones.

At Manchester High School for Girls, we recognise the importance of strong links between home and school and provide many opportunities for parents to visit and find out about their daughter's progress - from regular parents' evenings and written reports to our relaxed and informal 'Dine with your daughter' lunch date.



Leaders in the early years actively promote children's wellbeing, ensuring that the school values, such as innovation and compassion, are to the fore. Highly skilled teachers and teaching assistants deliver engaging activities and leaders are diligent in ensuring that children have a range of opportunities, in well-equipped areas both indoors and outside. As a result, children settle and progress in a secure, and purposeful environment within an atmosphere of happy engagement

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2024.

Senior School

11-16 years old

In the first three years of the Senior School we offer a broad and balanced range of subjects, including the arts, humanities, computing and PE. From the very start of Year 7, Science is taught as individual disciplines – Biology, Chemistry and Physics – and students also learn French, German, Spanish, Latin and Mandarin.

In Year 9, pupils are given help and guidance to choose their GCSE options. Dedicated teachers are on hand to ensure students select the subject combination that is right for them and keep options for Sixth Form study open.

At GCSE level, certain subjects - English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, at least one Modern Foreign Language and the Sciences (either Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects or Combined Science) – are compulsory.

These are accompanied by 'optional' subjects and students can choose from Fine Art, Computer Science, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Geography, Graphics, History, Music, PE, Dance and Religious Studies.

Sparkling that creative streak

Creative subjects such as Art, and our Design Technology and Innovation course, allow students to innovate, explore and challenge themselves. Visits to galleries and exhibitions open eyes and imaginations to new experiences and perspectives.

Manchester High School for Girls has a strong tradition when it comes to Music and Drama. Our purpose-built Music House is a lively hub for musicians and our Drama Studio is perfect for budding thespians.

Students regularly take to the stage at prestigious venues, while professionals from the worlds of dance, theatre and music frequently come to school to share their experiences.

A sporting chance

Sport is important at Manchester High and not just for the naturally athletic. We teach physical confidence at school encouraging everyone to participate, regardless of ability, in a variety of sports.

Competitive sports such as hockey, netball, and rounders are part of timetabled provision, alongside individual sports such as swimming, athletics and tennis. We also offer dance, water polo, football and cricket.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of our extensive facilities, from the indoor swimming pool, climbing wall and fitness suite to our dance studio, floodlit hockey pitch and multi-functional sports hall with viewing gallery.

We offer an Elite Pathway for students competing at representative level and regularly take part in prestigious local, regional, national and international competitions in a variety of sports.

"Pupils receive an education that is wide ranging, appropriately challenging and prepares them effectively for life beyond school. Pupils of all ages and aptitudes make good progress, reflected in their consistently high attainment in external examinations. Pupils' attainment at GCSE and A level, including for those pupils who have SEND and those who speak EAL, is well above national averages."

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2024



Sixth Form

16+ Years

Sixth Form is a time to prepare for life beyond school. We are very proud that our students attain some of the best A-level examination results in the country.

Students begin their Sixth Form career taking three or four A-levels. They benefit from expert teaching in our state-of-the-art Sixth Form Centre, which houses classrooms, meeting rooms, a lecture theatre and dining area.

We believe that the confidence and enjoyment gained from extra-curricular activities and achievements, along with being part of a highly motivated community, underpin academic fulfilment. All of our students are expected to participate in a wide range of opportunities, ranging from sport and music, to science and the creative arts.



Leadership Opportunities

Our extra-curricular activities provide opportunities to develop leadership skills, work effectively as part of a team and importantly, have fun! In addition, there are opportunities to take on leadership roles, for example:

Assembly leaders

Diversity and Inclusion Captains

House Captains and Deputy House Captains

Ivy Prefects

Head Girl Team

Primary School Partnership Scheme

Preparatory Department Science Club

School Ambassadors

Sixth Form Enrichment Programme:

Our Sixth Form Enrichment Programme offers students exciting learning opportunities beyond their A-level subjects. From student cookery to Philosophy, and from classical Greek temple architecture to astronomy, there should be something for everyone! We also give individual students bespoke university test preparation support as part of the Enrichment Programme.



"Pupils appreciate the many leadership opportunities, displaying pride in how they enable them to positively influence the development of their school community."

Independent Schools Inspectorate, April 2024



The Futures Programme

Career and Higher Education support is offered to each student via the Careers Department and our team of skilled Higher Education advisors. Careers guidance is offered to pupils from Year 7. A Sixth Form specific programme of support begins in the Junior Sixth and continues until students' destinations are confirmed during Senior Sixth. Students also have the opportunity to engage with speakers and mentors or enrol on work experience placements with the help of our extensive alumnae network. We are committed to ensuring that Manchester High pupils are aware of the breadth of opportunities available to them and feel supported as they pursue excellence within their chosen fields.

What support is given to students during the higher education (HE) process?

- Extensive individual support for each student from a dedicated and experienced HE advisor who helps with the choice of course and personal statement
- Practice interviews
- External speakers, including university admissions tutors
- Information and guidance regarding Degree Apprenticeships.

The majority of our students gain places on highly competitive university courses. We have a track record of supporting successful applications for Medicine as well as the most prestigious universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Each year we have at least one student who wishes to pursue their education abroad and we have successfully supported applications to universities around the world. Apprenticeships in a range of areas such as Accountancy and Journalism are also gaining in popularity.

Careers Support in Senior School

- Years 7 and 8 are introduced to careers via sessions in the Well Being curriculum
- Year 9 take part in the National Careers Challenge
- Year 10 students take part in a Business Challenge, assisted by the Sixth Form Young Enterprise students. They also receive full access to the My Future Choices - an online careers platform
- Year 11 students are encouraged to take part in work experience, and have careers sessions on post-16 options
- Year 11 students are invited to join the Aspire Club – designed to support students who would like to apply to Oxford, Cambridge or the most competitive university courses at top universities around the world
- All Senior School students have access to the 'Insight Into' careers talks either live or by viewing them on our Youtube channel
- All Senior School students are invited to visit the Futures Fair. This careers fair takes place every two years and is open to students and their parents from Years 9-13. A wide range of professions are represented and parents are also encouraged to attend.

Junior Sixth HE Programme

- Junior Sixth students take the 'My Uni Choices' profiling questionnaire and receive personalised feedback
- Students are invited to careers sessions throughout Sixth Form on topics ranging from finance, post-18 options, CV and cover letter writing and interview skills
- Students attend the UCAS fair in March of Junior Sixth
- All Sixth Form students are introduced to and supported through the higher education application process via a range of events, including a parent introduction evening in Junior Sixth
- A dedicated Higher Education day with external and internal speakers, UCAS registration, course research and personal statement planning
- Visits to University open days
- Access to 'Project Pankhurst', our flagship alumnae mentoring programme, enables Sixth formers to be partnered with one of our inspiring alumnae volunteers
- A wide range of extra-curricular clubs and societies including the Oxbridge Aspire Club, the Medical Society and a whole host of other opportunities.

Senior Sixth HE Programme

- One-to-one UCAS/HE application support
- University mock interview evening
- Admissions test support
- UCAS applications support & management
- Post application support and guidance.

How are students supported on results days if they change their mind about their HE application or do not achieve their offer grades?

- We open at 8am on A-level results day in August to celebrate with and support our students and their families
- Staff are available to offer advice on marking reviews and university admissions, both on results day itself and the following days
- Individual help is given to students who decide to defer applications to take a gap year or those who have simply changed their mind.

Oxbridge Programme

Students aiming for Oxford, Cambridge and other top universities can join the Aspire Club from Year 11, developing critical thinking and communication skills. Extensive support is given on applications, admissions tests and interviews.

'Insight Into' Career Talks

MHSG is in contact with over 3,000 members of the School's alumnae community. Former pupils have gone on to be specialists and leaders in their chosen fields. Our alumnae boast many 'firsts' including the first female executive director on the board of Marks and Spencer, the first woman to be chief cashier of the Bank of England and the first female helicopter pilot in the British Army. Members of the alumnae community regularly return to pass on their expertise to the next generation of bold young women. The 'Insight Into' careers talks draw on the experience of the alumnae community as they return to give students and their parents the inside track on how they forged a successful career in a particular area. Talks have referred to a diverse range of careers such as those in politics, cyber security, science and BBC apprenticeships.

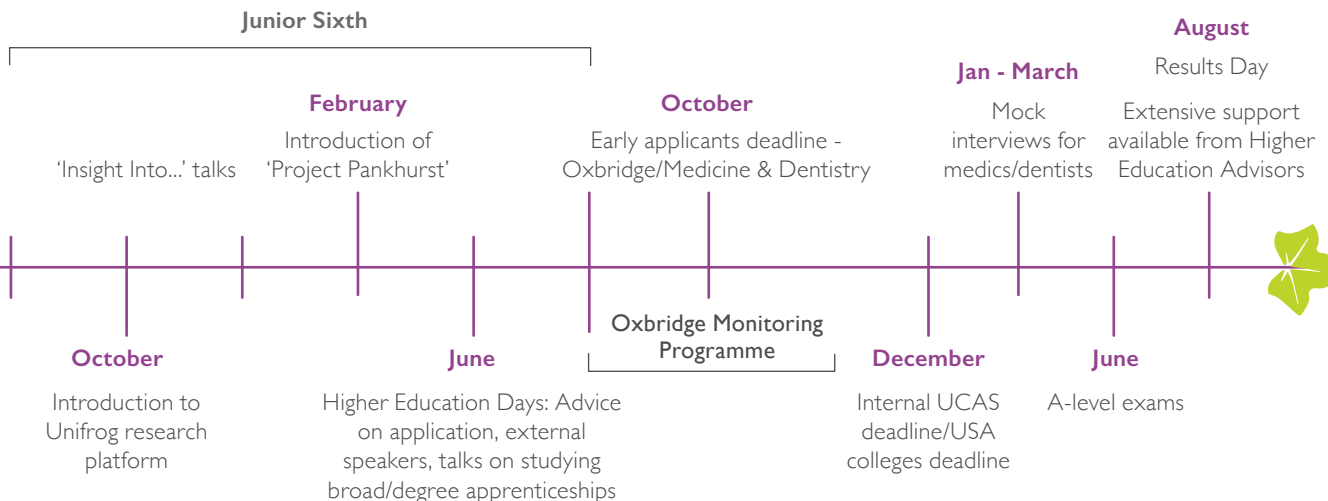


'Project Pankhurst' Mentoring Scheme

Our Sixth Form mentoring scheme is designed to help students prepare for the world beyond academia. The initiative enables students to make a connection with an MHSG alumna who will support them as they make decisions about their professional development. The programme is called 'Project Pankhurst' because the scheme enables our network of highly accomplished alumnae to uphold the Pankhurst legacy of women supporting each other. Participation in 'Project Pankhurst' is not compulsory and all students receive ongoing higher education and careers advice from the Sixth Form Team. That said, it is certainly very popular and students are encouraged to apply for a mentor.



Higher Education & Careers Timeline



Results and Destinations 2024

The median A-level grade was an A.

A total of

86% of our students'

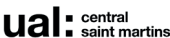
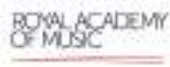
A-level grades were the 'gold standard' of A*-B, and

31% were the highest grade possible, A*.

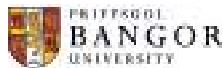
909 GCSE entries were awarded at grade 7 -9 (A/A*).

90%

of GCSE grades awarded in Computer Science and 86% of grades in Further Maths were 7 and above – showing that pupils excel in areas of the curriculum in which girls, traditionally, are under-represented nationally.



University Destinations



Inspiring Ivies



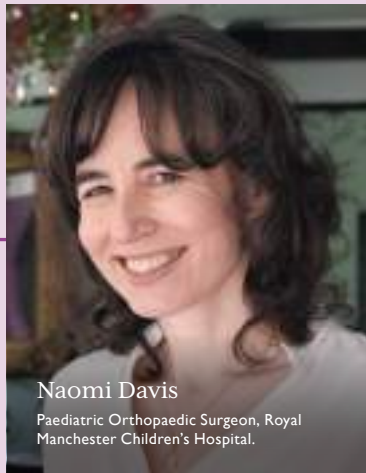
Ambah Simpson
Display & Video Lead,
Google Marketing Platform.



Prof. Fay Dowker
Professor of Theoretical Physics,
Imperial College London.



Jasmin Paris
First female runner to complete the Barkley
Marathons and Vet.



Naomi Davis
Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Royal
Manchester Children's Hospital.



Dr Seher Ahmad
Consultant Physician, Cleveland Clinic Abu
Dhabi.



Dr Melanie Garson
Internet Policy Lead at the Tony Blair
Institute and Lecturer in International
Conflict Resolution, UCL.



Emma Barnett
Presenter, BBC Today Programme



Anushka Asthana
Deputy Political Editor, ITV News.



Murvah Iqbal
Co-Founder, Hived.



Katie Marraché
Partner, JamJar Investments.



Dr Kotska Wallace
Principal Engineer, European Space Agency.



Deborah Joseph
Editor-In-Chief, GLAMOUR.



HHJ Rebecca Trowler KC
Senior Circuit Judge, The Old Bailey.



Maanti Nkwenti
Diversity & Inclusion Consultant, Ministry of Justice.



Rt. Rev. Libby Lane
Bishop of Derby, First female Bishop, Church of England.



Dr Laura Ajram
Chief Executive, British Neuroscience Association.



Next Steps

We love meeting prospective students and their families who are considering a Manchester High education.

Open Events

We run a number of Open Events each year. These provide an excellent opportunity to tour our facilities, meet current students and our inspirational teachers.

Book your place at:
manchesterhigh.co.uk/admissions/open-events

Or scan the QR code



How to apply

We welcome applications via our online application portal for all entry points.

Please visit
manchesterhigh.co.uk/admissions/admissions-process

Or scan the QR code



Follow us

For the latest news, events and success stories, follow us on social media [@manhighgirls](https://www.instagram.com/manhighgirls)



Fees and Bursaries

Our website provides information about our current fees as well as information about Bursaries and Scholarships

manchesterhigh.co.uk/admissions/fees

manchesterhigh.co.uk/admissions/bursaries-scholarships

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact our Admissions Team at registrar@mhsg.manchester.sch.uk or call **0161 224 0447**.

www.manchesterhigh.co.uk

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